

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Santa Clara Valley Water District Water Protection Project

CEC-12-019

Prepared by:



Nick Kilb
Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 10/9/12

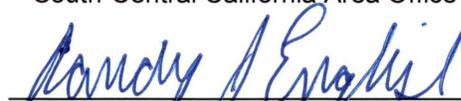
Concurred by:



Chuck Siek
Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 10/11/12

Concurred by:



Randy English
Chief, Resources Management Division
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 10/31/12

Approved by:

for 

Michael Jackson
Area Manager
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 10/31/12



Background

The Santa Clara Valley Water District (District) has proposed a Water Protection Project to enhance physical security at District operated facilities. The Proposed Action would improve security by implementing a system which integrates the human element with physical and electronic security measures.

The Proposed Action would involve three facilities owned by the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation): Pacheco Pumping Plant, Pacheco Bifurcation Station, and Coyote Pumping Plant (Figure 1). The District is under contract with Reclamation and the San Benito County Water District to operate and maintain the Pacheco Tunnel and Conduit, Santa Clara Tunnel and Conduit, and the Pacheco and Coyote Pumping Plants.

The Pacheco Pumping Plant is an integral part of the San Felipe Division of the Central Valley Project which was designed and built by Reclamation to convey water from the San Luis Reservoir to Santa Clara County, the San Benito County Water District, and eventually the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency. At the Pacheco Pumping Plant, water is lifted to the high-level section of the Pacheco Tunnel. After water is delivered through Pacheco Tunnel, it enters the Pacheco Conduit and flows to a bifurcation structure that separates the water between the Santa Clara and Hollister Conduits. The Santa Clara Conduit and Tunnel conveys water to the Coyote Pumping Plant, located near Anderson Dam.

Need for the Proposed Action

During the past decade, increasing security concerns have led to evaluations of sensitive facilities such as public water conveyance systems. A recent comprehensive security vulnerability assessment recommended several site security upgrades to District water facilities. Implementation of the Proposed Action would reduce the threat of vandalism and terrorism at these key locations.

Proposed Action

The Proposed Action involves installation of security equipment including: electronic access control, intrusion detection/presence detection, video surveillance, security intercommunications, fencing/gates and vehicle entry systems. Specific details of the Proposed Action are not described due to the confidential nature of the Proposed Action.

Proposed construction activities would occur at the three sites between September 2012 and November 2013. The activities would take approximately two weeks to complete per site. Construction would typically require two- to four-person crews. Equipment would include heavy- or light-duty trucks, a small backhoe, hand tools, and ancillary equipment. Staging of equipment and vehicles would be accommodated on previously disturbed areas at each site. All earthwork would occur in previously disturbed areas, and all sites would be restored to pre-project conditions upon completion of construction.

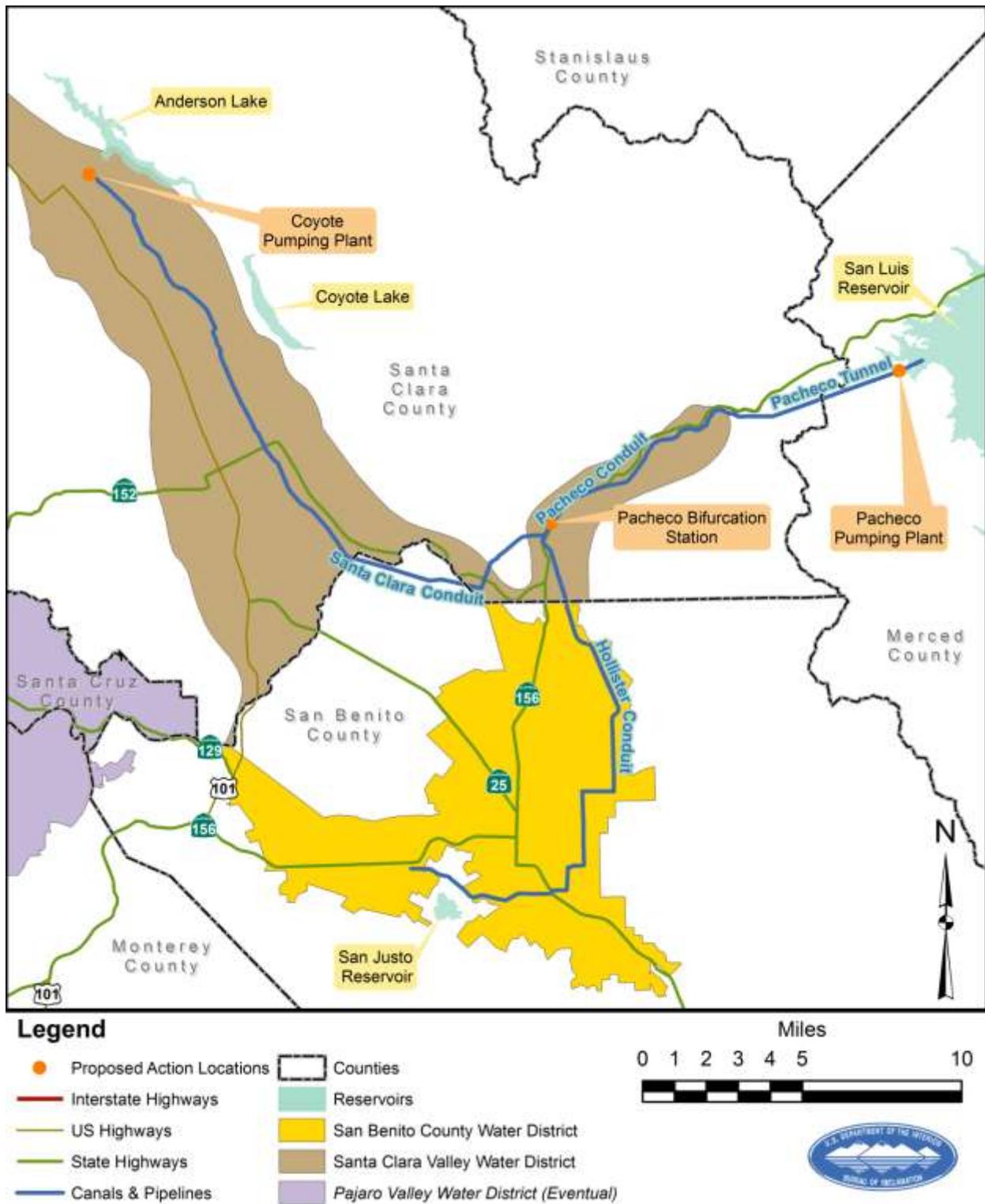


Figure 1 Proposed Action Locations, San Felipe Division Contractors, and Major Water Facilities

Environmental Commitments

Reclamation and the District would implement the following environmental protection measures. Environmental consequences for resource areas assume the measures specified would be fully implemented.

| Resource | Protection Measure |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Air Quality | Off-road vehicles (self-propelled diesel-fueled vehicles 25 horsepower and up that were not designed to be driven on-road) shall not be idled for 5 minutes or more. |
| Air Quality | Off-road vehicles used in demolition or construction shall be reported to the California Air Resources Board (CARB), and have both sides of their vehicles appropriately labeled with Equipment Identification Numbers prior to operation. |
| Air Quality | All trucks shall be required to cover their loads as required by California Vehicle Code §23114 |
| Air Quality and Visual | Pre-grading/excavation activities shall include watering the area to be graded or excavated before commencement of grading or excavation operations. Application of water should penetrate sufficiently to minimize fugitive dust during grading activities. |
| Air Quality and Visual | Construction activities shall comply with either Bay Area Air Quality Management District or San Joaquin Valley Air Quality Management District rules regarding Fugitive Dust control. |
| Biological | To avoid take of nesting birds in compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act a qualified biologist shall conduct a pre-construction nesting bird survey at the Pacheco Pumping Station project site. If nesting birds are found at, or directly adjacent to a project site, work shall be postponed until the young have fledged or until the nest is no longer active. |
| Biological | No more than 30 days prior to construction, a qualified biologist shall survey the Pacheco Bifurcation Station and the Coyote Pumping Plant project locations for California tiger salamanders, their sign, and potential burrows. All survey information shall be documented and submitted to Reclamation. |
| Biological | No more than 30 days prior to construction, a qualified biologist shall survey the Pacheco Pumping Plant, the Pacheco Bifurcation Station, and the Coyote Pumping Plant project locations for California red-legged frogs. All survey information shall be documented and submitted to Reclamation. |
| Biological | To avoid effects to the California tiger salamander and the California red-legged frog, construction shall not occur during the rainy-season or at night at all three of the project sites. |
| Biological | To avoid effects to the California tiger salamander, all small mammal burrows at the Pacheco bifurcation station and Coyote Pumping Plant project sites shall be avoided. |
| Biological | To prevent inadvertent entrapment of wildlife during the project, all excavated, steep-walled holes or trenches more than 2 feet deep will be covered at the close of each working day by plywood or similar materials, or provided with one or more escape ramps constructed of earth fill or wooden planks with a slope of 2:1. Before such holes or trenches are filled, they will be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals. If at any time wildlife is found trapped or injured, Reclamation must be contacted immediately. |
| Biological | No more than 30 days prior to construction, a qualified biologist shall survey the Coyote Pumping Plant project area for burrowing owls, their burrows and other sign. If any occupied burrows are found, no ground disturbing activities shall occur within 50 m of occupied burrows during the non-breeding season (September 1 through January 31) or within 75 m during the breeding season (February 1 through August 31). All survey information shall be documented and submitted to Reclamation. |
| Biological | A preconstruction survey for San Joaquin kit foxes, their dens, and other sign shall be conducted at the Pacheco Pumping plant and the Pacheco Bifurcation Station project sites by a qualified biologist no less than 14 and no more than 30 days prior to any activities. All survey information shall be documented and submitted to Reclamation. |
| Biological | If any listed species are observed in the action areas, Reclamation will be notified and the project will be rescheduled or postponed to avoid all impacts to species. |
| Biological | A litter control program shall be instituted at the project site. All workers shall ensure their food scraps, paper wrappers, food containers, cans, bottles, and other trash from the project area are deposited in covered or closed trash containers. The trash containers shall be removed from the project area at the end of each working day. |
| Biological | No firearms (except for Federal, State, or local law enforcement officers and security |

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | personnel) or canine or feline pets shall be permitted on construction sites to avoid harassment or killing or injuring of listed species. |
| Water Quality | The contractor shall develop and implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan, including BMPs for the construction project |
| Water Quality | Construction will be scheduled during periods of low water or the dry season, thereby increasing the distance to the shoreline. |
| Water Quality and Soils | Silt fencing, water bars, or straw bales and wattles will be used during construction to prevent erosion/runoff. |

Exclusion Categories

516 DM 14.5 paragraph C (3): *Minor construction activities associated with authorized projects which correct unsatisfactory environmental conditions or which merely augment or supplement, or are enclosed within existing facilities.*

516 DM 14.5 paragraph D (1): *Maintenance, rehabilitation, and replacement of existing facilities which may involve a minor change in size, location, and /or operation.*

Evaluation of Criteria for Categorical Exclusion:

- | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|-------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------|
| 1. This action would have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment (40 CFR 1502.3). | No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. This action would have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA Section 102(2)(E) and 43 CFR 46.215(c)). | No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. This action would have significant impacts on public health or safety (43 CFR 46.215(a)). | No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. This action would have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographical characteristics as historic or cultural resources; parks, recreation, and refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); flood plains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas (43 CFR 46.215 (b)). | No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. This action would have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks (43 CFR 46.215(d)). | No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. This action would establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects (43 CFR 46.215 (e)). | No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. This action would have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects (43 CFR 46.215 (f)). | No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. This action would have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by Reclamation (LND 02-01) (43 CFR 46.215 (g)). | No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. This action would have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated critical habitat for these species (43 CFR 46.215 (h)). | No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |

10. This action would violate a Federal, tribal, State, or local law or requirement imposed for protection of the environment (43 CFR 46.215 (i)). No Uncertain Yes
11. This action would affect ITAs (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993). No Uncertain Yes
12. This action would have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898) (43 CFR 46.215 (j)). No Uncertain Yes
13. This action would limit access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007, 43 CFR 46.215 (k), and 512 DM 3)). No Uncertain Yes
14. This action would contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act, EO 13112, and 43 CFR 46.215 (l)). No Uncertain Yes

Regional Archeologist concurred with Item 8. Their determination has been placed within the project file.

Area Office Biologist concurred with Item 9. Their determination has been placed within the project file.

ITA Designee concurred with Item 11. Their determination has been placed within the project file.

From: [Nickels, Adam M](#)
To: [Kilb, Nicholas D](#)
Cc: [BOR MPR Cultural Resources Section](#); [Kurt Lueneburger](#)
Subject: RE: Request for Determinations - Santa Clara Valley Water District Water Protection Project
Date: Tuesday, October 09, 2012 2:40:12 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Project No. 12-SCAO-238

Nick:

The proposed undertaking to allow the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) to conduct security upgrades to water facilities that they manage has no potential to cause effect to historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.3(a)(1).

The SCVWD proposes to install security cameras, card readers for automated gates, entrance control fences and gates, and other security improvements. These improvements will occur at three areas managed by SCVWD; the Pacheco Pumping Plant, the Pacheco Bifurcation Station, and the Coyote Pumping Plant. All three areas have been heavily modified during the initial construction of the facilities. Field inspections confirm the disturbance context. Of particular note is the Pacheco Pumping Plant. SHPO consultation dating back to 1975 notes that Reclamation capped a village site in the area. Project inspection confirms that the area is covered in at least 25-feet of engineered fill. The remaining two areas were modified extensively during their construction with disturbance exceed proposed trenching by 10's of feet. Given the level of existing disturbance, the proposed action has no potential to affect historic properties.

After reviewing CEC-12-019 for the *Santa Clara Valley Water District Water Protection Project* – dated August 2012 I concur with line 8.

Location: Pacheco Pumping Plant, Pacheco Bifurcation Station, and Coyote Pumping Plant.

Exclusion: C3, D1

This email memo is intended to convey the conclusion of the Section 106 process for this undertaking. Please retain a copy of this concurrence with the CEC file. Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Adam M. Nickels - Archaeologist - M.S.
Phone: 916.978.5053 - Fax: 916978.5055 - www.usbr.gov

From: [Rivera, Patricia L](#)
To: [Robbins, Eleanor J \(Ellie\)](#); [Kilb, Nicholas D](#)
Subject: RE: Request for Determinations - Santa Clara Valley Water District Water Protection Project
Date: Monday, August 06, 2012 8:11:39 AM

Nick,

I reviewed the proposed action to provide an environmental review of the activities considered outside the scope of routine Operation and Maintenance activities, yet undertaken by Santa Clara Valley Water District per their Operation and Maintenance agreement with Reclamation.

The Proposed Action involves installation of security equipment including: electronic access control, intrusion detection/presence detection, video surveillance, security intercommunications, fencing/gates and vehicle entry systems.

Proposed construction activities would occur at the three Reclamation sites at three facilities owned by Reclamation: Pacheco Pumping Plant, Pacheco Bifurcation Station, and Coyote Pumping Plant. Construction would occur between September 2012 and November 2013. The activities would take approximately two weeks to complete per site. Construction would typically require two- to four-person crews. Equipment would include heavy-or light-duty trucks, a small backhoe, hand tools, and ancillary equipment. Staging of equipment and vehicles would be accommodated on previously disturbed areas at each site. All earthwork would occur in previously disturbed areas, and all sites would be restored to pre-project conditions upon completion of construction.

The proposed action does not have a potential to affect Indian Trust Assets. The nearest ITA is Lytton Rancheria approximately 67 miles NW of the project location.

Patricia